



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

John Hanks preceded the Lincolns to Macon County, *Indiana*; that Dennis Hanks was *not* the son-in-law of Mrs. Lincoln; that John D. Johnston and Abraham Lincoln were *half-brothers*; that Lincoln was *twenty-two* years of age in March, 1832; that the first Monday in August came in the *early fall*; that there was a Whig party in Illinois in 1832; that George Forquer was an *old* man in 1836; that the *Sangamon Journal* was published at *Springfield*; that Thomas C. *Brown* was a member of the state supreme court; that Springfield was considered to be a *southern* Illinois town; and that Lincoln held title to wild lands in *Indiana*. The above are typical errors of the first third of the book; and they are due in part to carelessness, in part to the writer's lack of knowledge of the early history of Illinois. Everyone of them might have been avoided. Even in the latter part of the book where the writer's knowledge of affairs appears to be extensive, errors of a similar nature occur. Here she says that Hannibal Hamlin was from *Massachusetts*; that the special session of Congress of 1861 necessitated a *special election* for Congress; that a "three fifths ratification" of the states was necessary to amend the Constitution; and that Lincoln retired from Congress in 1843.

In spite of its many errors of facts the book will prove to be interesting and instructive for anyone who desires a general knowledge of Mr. Lincoln's life, particularly to that large class which minimizes the importance of being exact.

C. M. T.

The Life of Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Nineteenth President of the United States. By Charles Richard Williams. In two volumes. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1914. 540; 488 p. \$7.50 net)

There is a sophomoric touch in the writings of Rutherford B. Hayes, who began as a diarist at the age of twelve, and who kept up the habit of daily record through his whole life. He left a diary, heretofore generally unknown, which ranks with the great journals of Adams and Welles, and which is here exploited by a filial biographer. At the age of nineteen Hayes thought himself "possessed of a good share of common sense" (1:20). As a college senior he wrote: "My lofty aspirations I cannot conceal even from myself; my bosom heaves with the thought, they are part of myself, so wrought into my very soul that I cannot escape their power if I would" (1:22). At the end of his course in the Harvard Law School he recorded: "Let me but live out what is within, and I am vain enough to think that little of what is important would be found wanting" (1:45). And in 1893, "the last significant entries in

the diary" contain the words: "Let me be pure and wise and kind and true in all things" (2:437). The kind of self-esteem that convinces a man of his historic quality and keeps him true to himself at his best exudes from the letters and journals which Mr. Williams has used. And Mr. Williams is the son-in-law and continuator of the labors of the late William Henry Smith, who was Hayes's "most intimate, personal and political friend." The scheme of the work has been cut down in the transfer from the hand of Mr. Smith to that of Mr. Williams, the former having had the intention to write a "Life and Times," while the latter has written only the "Life," doing it with a single-minded devotion to the merits of his subject, but using materials that cast a clear light on American history during a decade that has thus far been almost unknown to the student of manuscript sources. Mr. Rhodes began the rehabilitation of the Hayes administration some years ago, and Mr. Haworth has gone deeply into the contest of 1876, but neither appears to have drawn considerably from the voluminous Hayes archives, now housed in a fire-proof building on the homestead at Spiegel Grove.

The greatest interest in the career of Hayes will always concern itself with his presidency, for he was the first of a line of "expedient" presidents. The type of political controversy that surrounds a leader chosen for his availability, that weakened and embarrassed Cleveland and Harrison and, to a lesser degree, McKinley, appeared within a week of his inauguration. The real leaders of the party had been passed over when Hayes was nominated, and they dared the president to run the government himself. Blaine, Conkling, Butler, and the rest, showed their teeth at once. "If there are any two men in the country whose opposition and hatred are a certificate of good character and sound statesmanship, they are Conkling and Butler" (2:429), wrote Hayes just before he left the White House. A little later he commented that "Blaine would gladly be wrong to be President. . . . He is a scheming demagogue, selfish and reckless" (2:367). The party leaders chose a butt unwisely when they selected Hayes for their attack. He developed a capacity for taking punishment and proceeding serenely on his way that discomfited them. They weakened his measures, they discredited his administration for thirty years, but no one of them gained the full confidence of the Republican party, or died happy. It was Hayes who took up the Republican party "in a period when the old questions are settled, and the new are not yet brought forward" (2:88), started it on its course toward sound money, connected its pledges on civil service reform with performance, and ended the worst sufferings of the South. At a time when men were asking if the Republican party were breaking up, Hayes gave it a new excuse for life.

The contribution of these volumes to the electoral contest of 1876 is

not great, except as to the mental attitude of Hayes during the trying days. He stayed at his desk as governor of Ohio, undisturbed by controversy, convinced of the righteousness of his contest, but unperturbed. Mr. Williams confesses himself a Democrat, who began the biography believing that Tilden was really elected, and declares that his examination of the Hayes materials left him in the conviction "that under the Constitution the decision of the Electoral Commission was the only possible decision," that it was "legally right and sound," and "that it was in accord with the eternal equities of the situation" (1: preface, viii).

The diary and letters that Mr. Williams has used uncover the mind of a president unaware that politicians might call his term a failure, believing that the people were behind him, and ending his term satisfied. Few of the leaders of the Civil War period saw so far into the future as did Hayes; yet he shows the force of his times in his conviction as a Republican that his party was the party of patriotism and intelligence. Party loyalty meant more in 1880 than it means today, and the worst Republican was better than the best Democrat in the mind of the average party man. Hayes repeatedly shows traces of this belief. But the sincerity and courage with which he faced the tasks of the South, resumption, and civil service reform raise him into the class of statesmen who could not be content with only a glorious past to the credit of his party.

The two volumes are well illustrated with portraits of Hayes and his associates. There are three facsimiles of letters which give a good idea of the careful manuscripts that Hayes prepared. But since no one of the three is *verbatim et literatim* with the same letter as printed in the text, the reader is forced to wonder what liberties Mr. Williams has taken with his materials. The changes observed are unimportant, yet since no explanation is given of the standards followed in editing there is fear that the sources have been "dressed up" to some extent. Lacunae in the printed extracts are often indicated by the usual signs; but selections from dissociated dates are often printed in consecutive paragraphs without explanation or comment. The work is obviously not that of a trained historian; it is invariably laudatory, but it is generally accurate. More might have been desired. The Hayes archives undoubtedly contain much unused and inviting materials. But enough has been printed to make this book one of the most significant contributions to American history of recent years.

FREDERIC L. PAXSON

Writings of John Quincy Adams. Edited by Worthington Chauncey Ford. Volume iv. (1811-1813). (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1914. 541 p. \$3.50 net).

The period included in this volume, is comparatively barren of notable